

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner stated that claims 1-24 and 48-65 (Group I) and claims 25-47 and 66-72 (Group II) claim distinct inventions and required restriction to one of the groups under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Applicant elects Group I with traverse and has withdrawn claims 25-47 and 66-72 without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to re-present the claims in the current application if the restriction requirement is withdrawn.

The Examiner stated that the invention in Group II (referred to herein as a decoder) has separate utility from the invention of Group I (referred to herein as an encoder). However, the Examiner fails to appreciate that a particular encoder and a corresponding decoder are interdependent because the output of the encoder can be properly decoded only by the corresponding decoder. Thus, the decoder does not have a utility that is separate from the encoder. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of restriction requirement and the reinstatement of claims 25-47 and 67-72.

SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-3476.

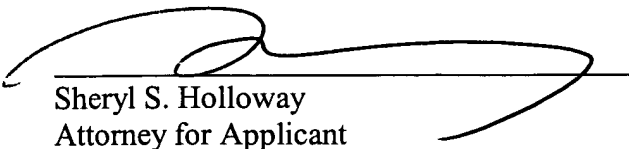
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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